

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

USSS-00 INRE-00 NSAE-00 IO-14 EUR-25 USIE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 DRC-01 OC-06

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1147

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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USMISSION UNNY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: REACTION TO US MILITARY RESUPPLY

REF: STATE 203889

1. LOCAL ARABIC PRESS HEADLINED PROMINENTLY USG ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY RESUPPLY TO ISRAEL BUT PLAYED STORY REASONABLY STRAIGHT, WITH QUOTES FROM PRES NIXON, INCLUDING REFERENCES TO US SUPPORT FOR RIGHT OF EVERY MIDEAST COUNTRY TO INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY, US DESIRE TO BE PEACEMAKER AND US POLICY VIS-A-VIS LEBANON IN 1958 AND JORDAN IN 1970. STORIES ALSO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ARAB COUNTRIES AND US DESIRE TO REDRESS BALANCE. AL QUDS (INDEPENDENT DAILY) EDITORIALIZES THAT NEITHER US DECLARATION NOR STATEMENT THAT ACTION AIMED AT STEMMING MILITARY IMBALANCE IS SURPRISE. HOWEVER, WHAT IT CONSIDERS "STRANGE" IS US INTEREST IN ONE PARTY
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ACCOMPANIED BY "TOTAL NEGLECT AND LACK OF INTEREST" IN SECOND

PARTY. IT RIDICULES US AS PEACEMAKER AND DEFENDER OF RIGHTS OF COUNTRIES IN AREA IN LIGHT OF ITS NEGLECT OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. DOES NIXON, IT WONDERS, SEE IN RESULTS OF 1967 WAR AND OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS AN INFRINGEMENT OF RIGHTS OF OTHERS THAT SHOULD BE ENDED?

2. ARABS HERE GENERALLY DO NOT EQUATE US WITH SOVIET SUPPLY EFFORTS; US VIEWED AS HELPING ISRAEL IN UNJUST STRUGGLE. EAST JERUSALEM ARAB REACTION MAINLY ONE OF ANGER BUT THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE TRANSLATING ITSELF, AT LEAST SO FAR, INTO VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICANS. WEST BANK UNRWA DIRECTOR TELLS US HIS ARAB STAFF "VERY MAD". HE SAID WEST BANK NOTABLE ANWAR NUSEIBEH (WHO HANDLES SOME UNRWA LEGAL WORK) ANGRY BUT ALSO UPSET THAT US ACTION COULD MEAN PROLONGATION AND ESCALATION OF WAR.

3. REACTION IN NABLUS - MOST POLITICALLY ACTIVE WEST BANK CITY - SOMEWHAT LESS PRONOUNCED, APPARENTLY BECAUSE POPULATION THERE (WHICH KNOWN AS MOST "DIFFICULT" AND OPENLY DEFIANT TOWARD ISRAELIS) HAD ALREADY COME TO ACCEPT WHAT IT CONSIDERS HOSTILITY TOWARD ARAB CAUSE AS FACT OF LIFE. MOREOVER, PLEASURE AT ARAB SUCCESSES SEEMS TO PREDOMINATE OVER BITTERNESS AT US ACTION.

4. A FEW ARABS HAVE ASKED US WITH MIXTURE OF BITTERNESS AND HUMOR - WHETHER US, SINCE IT HAS MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH JORDAN AS WELL AS ISRAEL, ALSO PLANS ARMS SHIPMENTS TO AMMAN.
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DAY
Errors: N/A
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